GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3287
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2017
Non-functional ARGs and AWSs
Venugopal Dr. Ponnusamy

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs) located in hills and other remote areas and a number of recently installed Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs) and AWSs are not working to capacity/ lying non-functional;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether several instruments remain non-functional because of lack of qualified personnel to repair them; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken/ being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY)

(a-d) Yes Madam. As on today, 364 Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs) out of 682 and 563 Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs) out of 1350 are functional. Automated observing systems are non functional largely on account of delay in procurement and supply of spares, sensors and accessories. However, efforts are made to expedite the procurement process but due to certain unforeseen reasons beyond control, supply of shares and accessories get delayed at time.

Field maintenance staff are trained to address the functional issues periodically as AWSs are operated without placing any manpower at their locations. Various measures are being taken up to avoid and to rectify malfunctioning of AWSs. These are;

â€¢ Zonal Instrument Maintenance Centres (ZIMC) and Field Maintenance Units (FMU) are established for routine inspection as well as maintenance of all unmanned field observing systems.
â€¢ Rate contract based supply of spares and consumables for rectifying the disfunctionality of the systems.
â€¢ Periodic preventive calibration of the field sensors and the systems.
â€¢ Periodic maintenance of the AWS sites.